

Appl. No. 10/002,882
Amdt. Dated January 9, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 29, 2005

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Listing of Claims

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended) The method of claim 29 40 further comprising maintaining presence and availability data for each user for each conference established.

Claim 27 (currently amended) The method of claim 29 40 further comprising said client process enabling a user to participate simultaneously in ~~one or more~~ than one ~~conferences~~ conference and to proactively notify one or more other users of any changes to any of said conferences.

Claims 28-30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said user has both a voice communication media device and a programmed communication text media device and said user is ~~simultaneously~~ currently participating in a conference ~~call~~ involving one of said media devices, said method further comprising said client process establishing a second simultaneous conference ~~call~~ involving the other of said media devices.

Claim 32 (currently amended) The method of claim 31 wherein said step of establishing said second conference ~~call~~ comprises

said client process requesting a communication controller to create said second conference and

said conference controller using said presence and availability data from the prior established conference to invite all of the participants in the prior established conference to join the second conference.

Claim 33 (currently amended) The method of claim 29 40 further comprising the step of said user employing a user interface in said client process to signal a communication controller to create a persistent conference and wherein the conference server retains identification of the persistent conference after users to said persistent conference leave said persistent conference.

Claims 34-39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (new) A method for establishing secure, multimedia conferences including a plurality of users, each of said users having a client process and at least one of a voice communication media device for audio conferencing and a programmed communication media device for text conferencing, said method comprising the steps of:

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a user communicating with a conference server to initiate and receive conference participation requests,

a routing server establishing a communication media connection to one of said user's communication media devices for participation in a conference,

determining that said user is entitled to participate in the conference,

securing communications being sent to said conference by encryption and decryption of the communications after said step of determining that said user is entitled to participate in the conference and including:

encrypting a secret conference session key with the user's secret key for communication of said conference session key to the user,

a security process within said client process of the user obtaining the encrypted secret conference session key from the conference server for the conference involving the user,

time stamping and encryption of message data and authentication of encryption and time stamp,

sending said time stamp, encryption and authentication of message data to the user on said conference; and

if said authentication and time stamp are valid, said client process of the user decrypting said secret conference session key using the user's secret key and decrypting said message data using said decrypted secret conference session key; and

said client process associated with the user mixing the communications from a plurality of conference participants for either a multipoint audio media conference or a multipoint text media conference involving the user.

Claim 41 (new) The method of claim 40 wherein said step of determining that said user is entitled to participate in said conference comprises executing a Kerberos protocol.

Claim 42 (new) The method of claim 40 wherein said step securing communications uses a modified Session Initiation Protocol.